

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2717

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS XX

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: DEPARTURE OF MOROCCAN EMISSARIES

1. ON HEELS OF PRI MIN OSMAN'S PARIS VISIT JULY 25-27 (RABAT 3550) OTHER MOROCCAN EMISSARIES BEGAN LEAVING JULY 26 TO EXPLAIN GOM POSITION ON SAHARA THROUGHOUT WORLD. HIGH FON MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT DECISION TO GO AHEAD WAS TAKEN IN LIGHT OF MORE FAVORABLE REPORTS ISSUED IN MADRID ON STATE OF FRANCO'S HEALTH. DEPARTURES HAVE RECEIVED HEAVY EMPHASIS IN LOCAL MEDIA. MEANWHILE, PRESS CONTINUING INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN ON SHAHRA, SUPPLEMENTING EDITORIALS AND NEWS ITEMS WITH MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR KING FROM LOCAL AND SAHARAN ORGANIZATIONS AND REPORTS OF POPULAR RALLIES ON ISSUE.

2. EMISSARIES AND DESTINATIONS ANNOUNCED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ABDELKRIM KHATIB (MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE CONSTITUTIONNEL ET DEMOCRATIQUE) AND MOROCCAN AMB TO SYRIA DRISS BENNOUNA
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TO LEBANON, SYRIA, JORDAN, IRAQ AND KUWAIT.

(B) LABOR MIN KHATTABI AND FON MINISTRY DEP. CHIEF OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS MOHAMED BISBIS TO ZAIRE, CAMEROUN, CONGO, GABON, AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

(C) MAHJOUBI AHERDANE (MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE) AND ROYAL CABINET REP ABDESLAM BEKKALI TO UGANDA, KENYA, ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND NIGERIA. (PRESS NOW REPORTS IDI AMIN HAS VOICED SUPPORT FOR MOROCCAN CLAIMS)

(D) BOUBKER KADIRI (ISTIQLAL) AND MOROCCAN AMB TO SAUDI ARABIA ABDERRAHMAN BADDOU TO JIDDA, UAE, BAHREIN, OMAN, QATAR, AND SOUTH YEMEN.

(E) ABDERRAHMAN BOUABID (UNFP) AND MOROCCAN AMBS TO IRAN (MOHAMED ALAMI) AND PEKING (KACEM ZHIRI), PLUS FON MINISTRY OFFICIAL ABBES MAKRI, TO COMMUNIST CHINA, IRAN, TURKEY, INDIA, PAKISTAN, INDONESIA, AND MALAYSIA.

(F) ALI YATA OF PLS (COMMUNIST) AND AMB TO ROMANIA MAATI JORIO TO ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BULGARIA, AND HUNGARY.

(G) MOHAMED BOUCETTA (ISTIALAL SECY GEN) AND AMB TO EGYPT ABDELLATIF LARAKI TO EGYPT, SUDAN, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

(H) URBANISM MIN HASSAN ZEMMOURI AND AMB TO IVORY COAST BOUBKER BOUMEHDI TO SENEGAL, GUINEA, IVORY COAST, GHANA, LIBERIA, NIGER AND MALI.

3. DEPARTING EMISSARIES HAVE MADE MORE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO RECOVERY OF CEUTA AND MELILLA ENCLAVES THAN HAS GENERALLY BEEN CASE DURING GOM'S CURRENT CAMPAIGN. BOUABID ADDED POINT THAT WHILE ENCLAVES A RELATED PROBLEM, HIS MISSION ABROAD WAS TO BE ON SAHARA ALONE. ONLY PREVIOUS OCCASION RECENTLY ON WHICH CEUTA AND MELILLA CITED SPECIFICALLY WAS IN FON MIN LARAKI'S JULY 19 DINNER SPEECH WITH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SECY GEN TOUHAMI AS GUEST.

4. COMMENT: DEPARTURE STATEMENTS BY EMISSARIES WILL FUEL SPECULATION THAT GOM PLANS INCLUDE CEUTA AND MELILLA. OTHER PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE RE ENCLAVES HAS BEEN GENERATED BY RUMORS FLOURISHING DURING RECENT WEEKS THAT GOM THINKING ABOUT CLOSING BORDERS TO ENCLAVES.

5. ACCOMPANYING GOVT REPS CAN BE EXPECTED TO HELP KEEP POLITICAL EMISSARIES FROM DEVIATING FROM CORRECT LINE; THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL PRESUMABLY PREVENT OVER- AS WELL AS UNDERZEALOUSNESS.
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